

Thursday, January 15, 2004

Iraqi disabled vets say farewell to their U.S. soldier friends

Story and photos by Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson,
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Soldiers from the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Greensboro, N.C., and the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, an Army Reserve unit from Riverdale, Md., both part of Task Force 1st Armored Division, said their goodbyes to the Iraqi disabled veterans at the Al Shamookh Village for Disabled Veterans after the units' final mission there Jan 4.

Maj. Eric Murray, team chief for the 422nd, said the units built strong ties with the veterans after the veterans traveled across the city to visit them at the Al Karkh Civil Military Operations Center (CMOC) for help.

After listening to their needs, Murray and his team took the project into their own hands.

"This is a mission that we took on voluntarily," Murray said. "They came asking about salaries and complaining about the condition of their rehab facilities after they had been looted."

The village is home to 150 veterans and their families. Every veteran is considered 100 percent disabled. Before the conflict, they received full support by the former regime. After the war, they had nothing, he said.

Murray's road to success with the Iraqi disabled veterans, however, was not an easy one. The rehabilitation center needed reconstruction and the veterans needed money to support themselves and their families. Murray and his team took the veteran's pleas for help to the Iraqi ministries and succeeded in gaining financial support.

"We did assessments, procured funds from the ministries, paid contractors, paid the veterans and their families and monitored the rehab facility reconstruction efforts," said Murray. "The work we have done is a small



Maj. Eric Murray, a team chief for the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, Task Force 1st Armored Division, an Army Reserve unit from Greensboro, N.C., hands out toys and school supplies to the children of the residents of the Al Shamookh Village for Disabled Veterans.

project that really sums up coalition involvement all over the country."

The civil affairs teams' involvement with the disabled veterans has gained them notoriety within the Al Shamookh community. After numerous visits to the Al Shamookh village, the teams have gained trust from the community.

Children ask for soldiers by name whenever the soldiers arrive in the neighborhood.

As a result of working together, both the veterans and the soldiers have gained trust and respect for each other, Murray said. While the civil affairs teams have made a great impact on the community, the community has in turn made an impact on the soldiers.

"These former soldiers are the most down-to-earth, trustworthy guys who have paid a great sacrifice for their country," Murray said. "We have pushed for support for them, and now it is time for the Iraqis to take over and make things happen."

The Old Ironsides Report

January 15, 2004

News...

Saddam Official's Four Nephews Captured

SAMARRA, Iraq (AP) - U.S. forces moved a step closer to the most wanted man in Saddam Hussein's regime Wednesday, detaining his four nephews in a pre-dawn raid and capturing another top fugitive thought to be a paymaster in the anti-U.S. insurgency. In the Sunni Triangle region that has been the heart of the guerrilla war, a car bomb exploded in front of a police station in the town of Baqouba, killing the driver and two other Iraqis and wounding 31, including civilians and police. Outside Samarra, U.S. troops killed eight Iraqis after their patrol came under fire.

Tests Show No Agent in Iraq Mortar Shells

CAMP EDEN, Iraq (AP) - Tests by Danish and American experts indicate there is no chemical agent in mortar shells unearthed last week in southern Iraq, but more testing is needed to confirm the findings, the Danish military reported Wednesday. The preliminary findings cast doubt whether the suspicious shells will become the "smoking gun" proving that Iraq still maintained supplies of banned chemical weapons when the United States and its allies launched the war last March.

Palestinian Mother Kills Four in Bombing

EREZ CROSSING, Gaza Strip (AP) - A Palestinian mother of two blew herself up Wednesday at the main crossing point between Israel and the Gaza Strip, killing three Israeli soldiers and a private guard and wounding seven other people. It was believed to be the first time the Islamic militant group Hamas has sent a female suicide bomber, possibly signaling a change in tactics aimed at piercing Israeli security, which mainly focuses on male suspects.

Fastows Set to Plead Guilty in Enron Case

HOUSTON (AP) - A plea deal worked out for former Enron finance chief Andrew S. Fastow includes his cooperation with prosecutors, which could break open the investigation into the failed energy giant's top management, a source familiar with the talks said Wednesday. Fastow and wife, Lea, a former Enron assistant treasurer, were expected to plead guilty Wednesday afternoon to charges related to their roles in Enron's stunning 2001 collapse; two sources told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Tuesday.

Chaplain's thought for the day...

Leadership

A good objective of leadership is to help those who are doing poorly to do well and to help those who are doing well to do even better.

--Jim Rohn

On the airwaves...

Bono's Use of Expletive Gets Second Look

By JONATHAN D. SALANT, Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) -- Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael Powell has asked his fellow commissioners to overturn a much-criticized decision that an expletive uttered by the musician Bono on a network program was not obscene.

During last year's NBC broadcast of the Golden Globes Awards, the lead singer of the Irish rock group U2 said "this is really, really, f----- brilliant."

The FCC's enforcement bureau ruled in October that the comment was not indecent or obscene because Bono used the word as an adjective, not to describe a sexual act. "The performer used the word ... as an adjective or expletive to emphasize an exclamation," the bureau said.

Powell circulated a proposed ruling to the four other commissioners on Tuesday. He needs the votes of two of the four to overturn the decision.

The enforcement bureau had rejected complaints from the Parents Television Council and more than 200 people, most of them associated with the conservative advocacy group, who accused dozens of television stations of violating restrictions on obscene broadcasts by airing portions of the awards program last January.

Under FCC rules, broadcasters cannot air obscene material at any time and cannot air indecent material between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.

In a letter to the Parents Television Council last November, Powell said the FCC needed to balance its rules against indecency and obscenity with the First Amendment right to free speech. Even so, he said, "I find the use of the 'F-word' on programming accessible to children reprehensible."

Some lawmakers have criticized the FCC decision.

Reps. Doug Ose, R-Calif., and Lamar Smith, R-Texas, proposed legislation that would ban five words and three phrases from the airwaves.

White Stripes Lead Singer Pleads Innocent

DETROIT (AP) - White Stripes lead singer Jack White, who's accused of repeatedly punching the lead singer of another band in the face, pleaded innocent Wednesday to a misdemeanor aggravated assault charge and was ordered to stand trial on March 9. The Dec. 13 fight between White and Von Bondies lead singer Jason Stollsteimer began shortly before midnight at the Majestic Theater Center, where both men were in the audience for another concert.

SAFETY TIP

DRIVING

Sometimes you can't predict every hazard...like the road collapsing under your vehicle. But...you can **ALWAYS** take the time to buckle up and wear your Kevlar helmet. If you do, you might walk away from an accident uninjured.

The Old Ironsides Report

January 15, 2004

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2004

As of: Wednesday, January 14, 2004 8:20:41 PM

Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00		HEADLINE NEWS	SUICIDE MISSIONS : - U-BOATS	TODAY		00:00
00:30	ESPNEWS	TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			YOUR CORPS	00:30
01:00	AROUND THE HORN		POINT OF NO RETURN		LESTER HOLT LIVE	01:00
01:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN				01:30
02:00	SPORTSCENTER			SESAME STREET	HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	02:30
03:00	NFL LIVE	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - CUSA: CINCINNATI @ MARQUETTE	ROCKET POWER : - OTTO 3000	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE : - BUGGIN'	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30	NFL'S GREATEST GAMES - SUPER BOWL STORY		THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS : - THE BIG PROBLEM/ POWER MAD	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00			THE SIMPSONS : - TALES FROM THE PUBLIC DOMAIN	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	THE NEWSHOUR	04:00
04:30			THE COSBY SHOW : - ONE MORE TIME			04:30
05:00	NBA - PHILADELPHIA 76ERS @ DALLAS MAVERICKS	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC: NORTH CAROLINA @ MARYLAND	MORES TRUE STORIES, TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
06:00			THE WEST WING : - BARTLET FOR AMERICA	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	CNBC: THE NEWS	06:00
06:30				JUDGE JUDY		06:30
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	ANTIQUES ROADSHOW : - CLEVELAND, HOUR 3	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:25				GUIDING LIGHT		07:25
07:30	NBA FASTBREAK	ESPNEWS			NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00		HEADLINE NEWS	GOLDI : - THE GOLD WARS		LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL		08:13
08:30	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT	HEADLINE NEWS				08:30
09:00	NFL TOTAL ACCESS	SESAME STREET	HELEN WEST : - SHADOW PLAY	DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIANS : - VIRTUAL LUCKY	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:30				HEY ARNOLD! : - LONGEST MONDAY/ EUGENE'S PET		09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE : - BUGGIN'		POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS : - A HOT WATER BATTLE	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE		JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TV-7): - TIGER & PUSSYCAT PT. 1		10:30
11:00	NHL - LOS ANGELES KINGS @ MINNESOTA WILD	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	ROCKET POWER : - OTTO 3000	JEOPARDY!	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS : - THE BIG PROBLEM/ POWER MAD	HEADLINE NEWS	AIR FORCE TV NEWS	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW				11:46
11:52				PACIFIC REPORT		11:52
12:00			THE SIMPSONS : - TALES FROM THE PUBLIC DOMAIN	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW : - ONE MORE TIME	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00			MORES TRUE STORIES, TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL	GOOD MORNING MIAMI : - TAKE A PENNY, LEAVE A PENNY	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL				13:17
13:25				WILL & GRACE : - DOLLS AND DOLLS		13:25
13:30	SPORTSCENTER					13:30
13:50				REEL TIME		13:50
14:00		HEADLINE NEWS	THE WEST WING : - BARTLET FOR AMERICA	THE BACHELORETTE II	48 HOURS	14:00
14:30	NFL LIVE	JUDGE JUDY				14:30
15:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC: NORTH CAROLINA @ MARYLAND	TODAY	ANTIQUES ROADSHOW : - CLEVELAND, HOUR 3	C.S.I.: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION : - LAST LAUGH	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00			GOLDI : - THE GOLD WARS	HEADLINE NEWS		16:00
16:22				PACIFIC REPORT		16:22
16:30				TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO		16:30
17:00	SPORTSCENTER	DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIANS : - VIRTUAL LUCKY	HELEN WEST : - SHADOW PLAY		HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30		HEY ARNOLD! : - LONGEST MONDAY/ EUGENE'S PET		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00	INSIDE THE NFL	POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS : - A HOT WATER BATTLE			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30		JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TV-7): - TIGER & PUSSYCAT PT. 1		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY!	ROCKET POWER : - OTTO 3000	THE LAST SUNSET		19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS : - THE BIG PROBLEM/ POWER MAD			19:30
20:00	NBA FASTBREAK	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS : - TALES FROM THE PUBLIC DOMAIN		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT	HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW : - ONE MORE TIME			20:30
21:00	SPORTSCENTER	GOOD MORNING MIAMI : - TAKE A PENNY, LEAVE A PENNY	MORES TRUE STORIES, TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL	STAY HUNGRY	48 HOURS	21:00
21:25		WILL & GRACE : - DOLLS AND DOLLS				21:25
21:50		REEL TIME				21:50
22:00	NBA - PHILADELPHIA 76ERS @ DALLAS MAVERICKS	THE BACHELORETTE II	THE WEST WING : - BARTLET FOR AMERICA		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
23:00		C.S.I.: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION : - LAST LAUGH	ANTIQUES ROADSHOW : - CLEVELAND, HOUR 3	ESPNEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30				HEADLINE NEWS	INSIDE POLITICS	23:30

Today in history... Jan. 15, 1970

QADDAFI IS PREMIER OF LIBYA:

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) Muammar al-Qaddafi, the young Libyan army captain who deposed King Idris in September 1969, is proclaimed premier of Libya by the so-called General People's Congress.

Born in a tent in the Libyan desert, Qaddafi was the son of a Bedouin farmer. He attended university and the Libyan military academy and steadily rose in the ranks of the Libyan army. An ardent Arab nationalist, he plotted with a group of fellow officers to overthrow the Libyan monarchy, which they accomplished on September 1, 1969.

Blending Islamic orthodoxy, revolutionary socialism, and Arab nationalism, Qaddafi established a fervently anti-Western dictatorship. In 1970, he removed U.S. and British military bases and expelled Italian and Jewish Libyans. In 1973, he nationalized foreign-owned oil fields. He reinstated traditional Islamic laws, such as prohibition of alcoholic beverages and gambling, but liberated women and launched social programs that improved the standard of living in Libya. As part of his stated ambition to unite the Arab world, he sought closer relations with his Arab neighbors, especially Egypt. However, when Egypt and then other Arab nations began a peace process with Israel, Libya was increasingly isolated.

Qaddafi's government financed a wide variety of terrorist groups worldwide, from Palestinian guerrillas and Philippine Muslim rebels to the Irish Republican Army. During the 1980s, the West blamed him for numerous terrorist attacks in Europe, and in April 1986 U.S. war planes bombed Tripoli in retaliation for a bombing of a West German dance hall. Qaddafi was reportedly injured and his infant daughter killed in the U.S. attack.

In the late 1990s, Qaddafi sought to lead Libya out of its long international isolation by turning over to the West two suspects wanted for the 1988 explosion of an airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland. In response, Europe lifted sanctions against Libya. After years of rejection in the Arab world, Qaddafi also sought to forge stronger relations with non-Islamic African nations such as South Africa, remodeling himself as an elder African statesman.



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